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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
YOSHIAKI MIYATA, ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION :  
FILED: HEREWITH :  
FOR: HYALURONIC<sup>o</sup> ACID GEL, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE  
SAME AND MEDICAL MATERIAL CONTAINING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-12 and add new Claims 13-16 as follows:

- A1
13. (New) A method of producing a hyaluronic acid gel which comprises adjusting a hyaluronic acid solution to a pH 3.5 or below, and freezing and thawing the solution at least once.
  14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the gel dissolves in a neutral aqueous solution at 37°C in 12 hours to a degree of dissolution of at most 50%.
  15. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the gel dissolves to yield solubilized hyaluronic acid having a molecular branched structure and partly containing a molecular